United Services Club is not functioning on commercial lines at present.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

Acquiring Hi-Tech Weapon System For Defence Forces

2448. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA:
SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the process of procuring defence related hi-tech weapons has suffered a setback due to extrenous reasons resulting in lack of very essential items needed for combating terrorism;

(b) if so, the present position of acquiring better quality of AK-47 rifles, electronic sensors etc. especially in light of demand by the Indian Army and para-military forces for equipping them better; and

(c) the present status of acquiring T-90 tanks, smerch artillery systems and upgrading 133 mm artillery guns to 155 mm and weapons locating radars?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No Sir. Procurement of defence related hi-tech weapons is a continuous and on-going process keeping in view the essential requirements.

(b) and (c) In view of the sensitive nature of the information, it is not in the interest of national security to disclose the details.

Acquisition of AWACS

†2449. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.